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Programme element II.e

Matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process

Forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

During the second session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), Governments held substantive discussions on programme element II.e. Information on this topic was provided in the reports of the Secretary-General on forest-related work of international and regional organizations (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/5) and forest-related work under existing instruments (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/11), which included descriptions of institutions and instruments and opportunities for potential institutional synergies to support the IFF process among members of the informal, high-level Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests, as well as other international organizations.

The present note has been prepared to support update discussions during the third session of IFF. In response to the request by IFF at its second session, section III summarizes the results of an analysis of the experience with implementation, compliance and achievements of forest-related work under existing instruments and by international organizations. Section IV contains additional conclusions and proposals for action for further consideration by the Forum.

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I. Mandate and scope

A. Mandate

1. The Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), at its first session, defined programme element II.e as follows: "*Consider forest-related work of international and regional organizations*. Further examine the forest-related work being carried out by international and regional organizations and under existing instruments in order to identify gaps and overlaps" (see E/CN.17/IFF/1997/4, para. 7, category II (e)).

B. Scope

2. At its second session, the Forum requested its secretariat to submit, at the third session, an in-depth analysis of the experience with implementation, compliance and achievements of forest-related work under existing instruments and by international organizations. The present note also analyses the nature and magnitude of demands by existing instruments and organizations on national institutions and their capacities to respond to these demands. Coherence among forest-related objectives and policies and effectiveness of their implementation is briefly discussed. In response to the request by the Forum, section III summarizes the results of the analysis undertaken by the IFF secretariat, and section IV contains a set of additional conclusions and proposals for action for further consideration by the Forum. It is suggested that these additional conclusions and proposals for action be considered in conjunction with the preliminary conclusions and proposals for action agreed upon by IFF at its second session. A discussion and analysis of the degree of effectiveness of international cooperation to support forest-related work is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the need for financial resources (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/4).

3. The present note is also complementary to the report of the Secretary-General on programme element III (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/16). The present note has been prepared in the context of the mandate to "... work towards a consensus on international arrangements and mechanisms, for example, a legally binding instrument ..." (see E/CN.17/IFF/1997/4, para. 7, category III). The conclusions and proposals for action adopted by the Forum on programme element II.e, however, would continue to have a value by themselves for matters concerning the forest-related work under existing instruments and by international organizations, independently of the consensus to be reached by the Forum at its fourth session with respect to programme element III.

II. Results of the second session

4. At its second session, the Forum held a substantive discussion on programme element II.e, resulting in a set of preliminary conclusions and proposals for action (see E/CN.17/IFF/1998/14, sect. II.F) to be reviewed, updated and, if necessary, further negotiated during the third session.

5. While considering programme element II.e at its second session, IFF acknowledged that in the context of the implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) proposals for action, analysis has shown that the critical issue for the work of international organizations is not gaps, overlaps or areas of duplication. The organizations have delineated themselves fairly well both substantively and geographically, as well as operationally. The

real challenges ahead lie in further strengthening the existing partnerships among members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests and other international and regional organizations and instruments, and in facilitating the establishment of new modalities of cooperation between Task Force members and other partners for making the best use of available forest-related institutional capabilities at the national, regional and international levels. Special attention should be paid to the coordination of international support to country efforts aimed towards sustainable forest management, primarily through national forest programmes.

6. The Forum also emphasized that complementary objectives and approaches on forest-related issues, which are built upon the IPF proposals for action, are crucial for promoting improved efficiency and coordination among institutions, organizations and instruments. Future efforts by international organizations, multilateral institutions and instruments should be flexible in order to accommodate existing and emerging needs, as well as the different levels of social and economic development of countries, in particular developing countries. Member States of the different governing bodies of international organizations and instruments should also strive towards improved policy consistency for the creation of effective and mutually supportive work programmes in these organizations and instruments.

III. Analysis of experience with implementation, compliance and achievements of forest-related work under existing instruments and by international organizations

7. The present section presents the results of the analysis requested by IFF at its second session. The analysis was undertaken on the basis of information compiled in a survey by the IFF secretariat that was sent to 60 institutions covering a wide spectrum of legally and non-legally binding instruments, international organizations, including the United Nations system, the regional commissions, regional development banks, other intergovernmental bodies, and several non-governmental organizations of recognized experience in forest-related activities. The analysis is also based on information and results from government-led initiatives that have supported both the IPF and IFF processes. In accordance with the guidance provided by the Forum at its second session, the survey was designed to solicit information relevant to programme elements II.e and III. Of the list of 60 organizations and instruments to which the questionnaire was sent (see annex), responses were received from 15 institutions. The IFF secretariat has attempted to draw a few preliminary conclusions; however, in view of the rather small number of respondents, these preliminary conclusions should be considered with caution.

8. In organizing relevant information for the preparation of the present section, "regional and international organizations" and "instruments" were distinguished as two different kinds of entities. In the context of IFF deliberations, the term "instruments" refers to forest-related regimes, both legally binding (conventions) and non-binding. Instruments are viewed as agreed-upon principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures that govern the interactions of actors in specific substantive areas. As such, they provide the governing framework for discourse, actions and operations at the national, regional and international levels. They vary greatly in terms of membership, functional scope, geographical domain, complexity, degree of formalization, stages of development, and compliance or degree of implementation.

9. "International and regional organizations", by contrast, are material entities possessing offices, personnel, equipment, budget, and governing bodies, and have a legal personality. Through their periodic work programmes adopted by their governing bodies, these

organizations usually play important roles in implementing and administering the provisions of many international regimes.

A. Instruments

10. It is known that most developing countries have serious difficulties in meeting the objectives, demands and compliance requirements of existing forest-related instruments and conventions because of their limited institutional and financial capacity, lack of manpower and limited national legislative frameworks to support these conventions. Substantive support by the international organizations and institutions to the implementation of forest-relevant global and regional instruments is based on existing forest-related capacities for information-gathering, monitoring and assessment, particularly within the members of the Task Force, as well as on technical expertise and ability to respond to national needs at the national and subnational levels.

11. The large majority of developing countries are parties to international instruments with forest-related elements, most of which require forest-related information and data for the reporting and monitoring of progress and compliance. The need for international mechanisms to standardize and harmonize concepts and reporting formats is discussed in the report of the Secretary-General on monitoring progress in implementation (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/3). However, there is currently no formal mechanism, at either the global or the regional level, to undertake a composite review of the compliance of forest-related obligations of existing instruments in a cohesive and comprehensive manner, and to assess their collective effectiveness in achieving sustainable forest management.

B. International and regional organizations

12. International and regional organizations have played an important role in the implementation of the proposal for action adopted by IPF in February 1997 and endorsed in June 1997 by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session. IPF has been successful in catalysing new action and commitments, and has contributed to the deliberations on sustainable forest management among a wide variety of partners and major groups within and outside the United Nations system. Although much remains to be done, there has been tangible progress in implementation by international organizations at the national, regional and international levels. A step forward in developing a fuller understanding of the work of forest-related international and regional organizations and instruments has been achieved by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in cooperation with other Task Force members, through responding positively to the Forum's request at the second session to develop a comprehensive directory of these institutions.

13. The information contained in the report of the Secretary-General on this topic prepared for the second session (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/5) showed that the forest-related work-programmes of Task Force members collectively cover almost the totality of substantive areas on the international agenda for action on forests as defined by the IPF/IFF process. In addition to the recognition accorded by IPF, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, the Task Force has also been recognized as an innovative mechanism by the Inter-Agency Committee for Sustainable Development, which is charged with coordinating the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and Agenda 21 by the United

Nations system. At its second session, the Forum requested Task Force members to explore and develop the potential for institutional synergies with other partners with respect to specific IPF proposals for action and IFF programme elements, especially with regional development banks, regional commissions and other regional intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, other international organizations and private-sector institutions.

14. It has also been pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General on the need for financial resources (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/16) that many of the institutions that responded to the IFF secretariat survey felt that in order to accomplish increased efficiencies, synergies and coordination to advance in a meaningful way, concerted and above all concrete joint action has to take place. This is true not only for organizations that have operational activities at the country level but also for some of the instruments. For the forest sector to become relatively more effective and influential and attract more resources, international and regional institutions and bilateral donors with coordination units at the national level would have to be engaged. Some respondents to the survey believed that this coordination and synergy could be accomplished most effectively through national forest programmes. It is quite evident that international organizations and multilateral institutions are the most effective and responsive to those policies that reflect the needs that they have encountered at the national and field levels. Policies with global objectives are more difficult to implement since they are less concretely felt at the national level, where more evident and acute local needs are prioritized.

C. Implementation and compliance of forest-related work under existing instruments and by international organizations

15. Despite the low rate of response to the survey conducted by the IFF secretariat in response to the request of the Forum, the results were quite interesting and illuminating, and will perhaps answer some of the questions posed by the Forum concerning international and regional organizations, NGOs and others. Some of the results of the survey, in particular those relating to compliance to instruments, can also be found in the report of the Secretary-General on the need for financial resources (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/16), and should be considered in the context of the results contained in the present report in order to have a complete picture of the responses.

Implementation

16. At its second session, the Forum expressed the need to identify those areas where implementation has seen the most progress and those which had encountered the most impediments. The areas that seem to have made the most progress in implementation are related to:

(a) Information-gathering and dissemination;

(b) Improved harmonization of data sets;

(c) Establishing networks among different interested parties, primarily related to information and research;

(d) Programmes that adopt participatory, intersectoral and/or ecosystem approaches;

(e) Increased interest and participation in policy dialogues, as well as giving policy advice and support.

17. Programmes which involve value added to the forest resource seem to enjoy success, presumably because benefits are more immediately felt. Such programmes include:

(a) Forest resource creation (plantations);

(b) The development of a forest products industry;

(c) Traditional knowledge.

18. Several of the respondents also listed capacity-building programmes as enjoying significant progress. It was also felt in a few cases that the scientific aspects of conservation and forestry are having increasing influence on problems related to forest management.

19. As to impediments to implementation, several responses identified lack of funding. There was no recurring dominant issue that was identified as an impediment. Some of the impediments, if not exactly alike, relate to such areas as:

(a) Lack of existence or enforcement of clear national programmes and priorities related to forests;

(b) Lack of integration of forest priorities with national development goals;

(c) Lack of sound policies on land use, tenure and property rights;

(d) Irregularities in Governments, such as corruption;

(e) Lack of effective policy instruments;

(f) Lack of a definition of what is meant by sustainable forest management and the related issue of a critical mass of evidence that the concept works and is applicable in the field.

20. Other impediments were related to information and awareness, such as data availability and consistency, ill-guided campaigns and misunderstanding by the public, especially about tropical forests and their products, and lack of information and communication technologies. Human resource skills did not feature as an impediment; however, lack and loss of available human resources in institutions was noted, both at the national level and in the responding institutions, along with a lack of continuity in institutional leadership and organization. Inability to reconcile protectionist and productionist views, as well as a lack of ground rules for forest management and related activities, were also said to be impediments to implementation. The lack of political commitment was also identified by a few responses, leading to protracted, artificial and unnecessary international negotiations without any concrete results, especially at the field level.

21. Other impediments related to internal characteristics of the responding institutions themselves, such as weak mandates or policies in the forest sector, as well as low visibility of the issue in the organization as a whole, which had led to decreasing demand for services. Lack of coordination among and within organizations, as well as competition, were mentioned in a few cases.

22. In the report of the Secretary-General on the need for financial resources (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/16), it is noted that those legally binding instruments that responded to the survey rated compliance to forest-related obligations as relatively high, while the more recently established instruments were just in the process of developing monitoring mechanisms for those obligations and were not in a position to assess compliance.

23. In summary, at least the following five areas need enhanced international support for the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national level:

(a) **Governance**: effective governance of international institutions, organizations and instruments dealing with forest-related issues, and on the national level as regards transparency and corruption;

(b) **Coordination**: improved coordination between international and bilateral funding agencies and national level coordinating units for national forest programmes;

(c) **Capacity-building**: projects to strengthen capacity-building (especially managerial and institutional), technology transfer and exchange (especially related to modern communication and information exchange), and human resource retention and development, in particular at the national and field levels;

(d) **Data**: strategic data collection, analysis, synthesis and reporting. Much more focus must be put on providing national-level staff with the tools to collect and provide information and data, primarily to improve national-level monitoring and reporting but also to be able to participate in regional and international level initiatives, such as the criteria and indicator processes;

(e) **Participation**: improved participation of major groups in forest forums and national forest programme processes to promote sustainable forest management.

D. Nature and magnitude of forest-related demands by organizations and instruments on national institutions, and their ability to respond

24. The Forum also requested an analysis of the nature and magnitude of demands on national institutions, as well as existing national capacities to respond to these demands. It should be noted that this survey was undertaken among the organizations and instruments that place the demands on others and not among those that actually have to respond to them. Even if the organizations felt that the magnitude of their demands on national institutions was "medium", requests (even if only at the "medium" level) from these 15 organizations over a year could easily add up to quite a heavy burden on any particular national institution. The survey also sought the organizations' view on the main impediments and strengths within national institutions to respond to a range of different demands.

25. The survey specifically requested information on the demands on national institutions in terms of national reporting; project and programme formulation and implementation; assessment and evaluation; and statistical data. Some of the respondents added other demands, such as participation in policy dialogues and policy formulation. The results may be summarized as follows:

Nature of demand	Magnitude	Ability to respond
National reports	Medium	Medium/low
Project/programme formulation and implementation	High	Medium
Assessment and evaluation	Medium	Medium/low
Statistical data	Medium	Low

26. Among the responses to the questions to identify the three main impediments faced by national institutions in responding to demands by international and regional organizations and instruments, and to note the three main strengths in meeting these demands, the main

impediments mentioned were lack of funds, lack of managerial skills resulting in inefficiencies, and lack of awareness of information and data sources, as well as lack of access to communication and other technologies. Lack of availability of human resources, related to low salaries and the lack of prestige and priority attached to the forest sector in Governments, was also frequently mentioned.

27. By far the most frequently mentioned strengths of national institutions were the professional and technical skills of human resources. Staff is well aware of particular national circumstances and problems and committed to finding solutions. Some of the strengths identified include dedication and well established traditions in forestry. In some cases, it seems that strengths are developing in participatory approaches and cross-sectoral planning processes, thereby improving implementation success significantly.

28. Other studies show that most of the demands made by existing instruments relate to legal enforcement, monitoring, assessment, data collection, national reporting, project formulation and implementation, as well as attendance at meetings. There is considerable overlap in all these demands by different instruments. Governments have recognized the overwhelming increase in such demands, and several proposals are presently under consideration by different intergovernmental governing bodies. Such matters as national reporting, geographically separate location of secretariats and high-level segment meetings have been noted as typical issues requiring improved coordination. Different intergovernmental forums have already identified approaches on how to overcome this situation, including the following:

(a) All international and regional organizations inside and outside the United Nations system and secretariats of relevant instruments should cooperate to streamline national reporting and/or integrating national reporting requirements; share official information from Governments so that Governments would not be requested to provide the same information to more than one United Nations organization or instrument secretariat; make information available electronically, on a country-by-country basis, in a manner that would facilitate electronic linkages among the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and the secretariats of the conventions.

(b) The conferences of the parties to conventions should, if appropriate, give consideration to the co-location of secretariats so as to improve the scheduling of meetings in order to improve the balance between sessions of the conferences of the parties and sessions of their subsidiary bodies, and to encourage and facilitate the participation of Governments in those sessions, at an appropriate level.

E. Achievements

29. Major achievements since UNCED have been the entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its recognition of forests as carbon sinks; the Convention on Biological Diversity and its programme of work on forests; and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, of particular relevance for countries with low forest cover. However, the full implementation of these important conventions and elements of other forest-related instruments (for a list, see annex) remains to be carried out. In most cases, further strengthening of their forest-related elements is required to embody the Forest Principles more firmly in national and international law and practice impacting on forests.

30. With decreasing resources, international and regional organizations are finding it increasingly difficult to meet the needs of their constituencies. While many existing activities are recognized as fulfilling essential functions, there is no doubt that forest-related programmes could be further improved. These organizations have to respond to ever-increasing and new demands and issues, running the risk of spreading themselves too thin and not having the resources to maintain core competencies in some critical areas. The two major challenges in the future will be to organize activities of these organizations around an agreed international priority agenda on forests, and to ensure a critical mass of competencies for effective implementation. Expansion of the scope of the activities of the Task Force beyond servicing the IPF/IFF process is considered to be a significant achievement in inter-agency cooperation.

F. Coherence of forest-related objectives and policies among existing instruments

31. A recurrent recognition in the IPF/IFF process has been the notion that sustainable forest management requires the participation of many diverse institutions involved in addressing issues related to forests. A better understanding of the work carried out by different international and regional organizations, and under existing instruments, is one of the most important contributions to date of IFF towards the forging of synergies as well as to overcoming the inefficiencies derived from fragmented approaches to forest policies, programmes and institutions.

32. Existing international conventions (see list contained in annex) embody several cross-sectoral issues that are relevant to forests, such as financial resources, conservation, technology transfer, trade and traditional knowledge, and consequently address forest-related issues in a specific context. However, none of these instruments and no single international or regional organization has either a mandate or the capacity to address, in a balanced, holistic and mutually reinforcing manner, all priority issues related to all types of forests which are currently on the international priority agenda.

33. There is a need to strengthen cooperation among the conferences of the parties to various conventions signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as other conventions with forest-related elements, in order to advance the effective implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action. There is also a need for a better scientific assessment of forest-related linkages between existing instruments. There are certainly opportunities to achieve further efficiencies by implementing action-oriented forest-related projects and programmes that are relevant to more than one instrument and that provide multiple benefits at the national level.

34. Taking into account the large number of decision-making bodies concerned with various aspects of forests, including international conventions, there is a need for coordination of forest policy at the intergovernmental level, as well as for continued and more concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of various decision-making bodies.

G. Potential contributions by regional and international voluntary initiatives

35. Several initiatives related to developing and implementing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management (in which more than 130 countries now participate) can make a unique contribution to addressing sustainable forest management issues in a holistic way at the national and regional levels. These initiatives have been launched by like-minded countries outside the framework of the United Nations system, and are presently promoting effective implementation of sustainable forest management at the national level. In view of the many organizations, initiatives and instruments that now need and develop data sets relevant to forest, there is considerable scope for harmonization and standardization of methodologies.

36. It was evident that the NGOs and major groups that responded to the survey felt that their participation in international policy dialogues on forests needs to be made more effective. It should be cause for concern that those major groups, which will be among the most important implementors of sustainable forest management, such as private industry, forest owners, forest workers, indigenous people and other local populations, do not feel that their particular concerns are sufficiently taken into account.

IV. Additional preliminary conclusions and proposals for action

37. The following conclusions and proposals for action are additional to the ones already agreed upon on this topic by the Forum at its second session. Considering that many institutional and legal issues are closely interrelated, the final conclusions and proposals for action under programme element II.e to be adopted by the Forum at its fourth session would need to take into account and complement the outcome of consensus reached under programme element III.

38. The proposals for action of IPF have been recognized as the most important and comprehensive consensus for forest-related action adopted since UNCED. Even if notable progress has been made in some areas, there is still unsatisfactory progress in the overall implementation of the proposals for action by organizations and instruments. There continues to be an urgent need for institutional mechanisms and financial support to facilitate the mobilization of the respective strengths and capacities of relevant institutions and instruments around a common priority agenda for concrete action on forests. This could be promoted through continued policy dialogue, consensus-building and international cooperation among them.

A. Additional preliminary conclusions

Implementation and compliance

39. Implementation of and compliance with forest-related commitments made under Agenda 21, the Forest Principles, the IPF proposals for action and international instruments have seen some progress in certain areas, but overall progress remains inadequate. The transformation of these commitments into real priority actions at the national, regional and global levels continues to remain a challenge. A cohesive and comprehensive agenda for priority action on forests is lacking in terms of both institutions and instruments.

40. There is a need to establish appropriate mechanisms to ensure implementation and compliance of forest-related work under existing instruments and by international organizations beyond the year 2000 by:

(a) Advancing a comprehensive consideration of all relevant forest-related priority issues, which encompass all types of forests, that would facilitate concerted and joint action by organizations with forest-related capabilities;

(b) Providing adequate, sustained and predictable assistance to complement the resources of developing countries in order to implement national forest programmes aimed at the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, and to respond to demands by the international organizations and instruments;

(c) Monitoring systematically the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action and forest-related obligations under existing instruments;

(d) Providing a forum to address and minimize potential sources of conflict associated with high levels of deforestation and forest degradation, forest fires, trade in forest products and services, or in any other forest-related issues with high transboundary, regional and global impacts.

Demands on national institutions

41. Most developing countries encounter enormous difficulties in providing timely responses to the demands and to implement the substantive objectives of most instruments and conventions and in putting into practice their compliance requirements, due to their limited institutional and financial capacity, lack of manpower and managerial skills and inadequate or non-enforced national legislative frameworks to support these instruments. Streamlining of reporting, as well as collective efforts to harmonize data set and standardize methodologies, could go a long way towards alleviating some of the burden on national institutions, as well as making regional and international-level monitoring, data collection, reviewing and reporting more efficient.

Coherence of forest-related objectives and policies among existing instruments

42. As noted by IPF, there is no global instrument dealing primarily with all types of forests in a cohesive, comprehensive and holistic manner. Considering the current crisis of the forest sector in general, aggravated by institutional instability, alarming rates of deforestation, and forest fires with national and regional consequences, it is urgent for international and regional organizations, as well as for Governments, to deal coherently and effectively with all the interrelated economic, social, environment, cultural and development matters that often underlay these crises in order to achieve management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests. Such issues as trade, market access and transparency, and economic, environmental and social policies which directly or indirectly affect the forest sector, as well as governance and corruption, private investment, financial resources and transfer of technology, need to be addressed in an integrated manner to achieve efficiency and effective results.

B. Additional preliminary proposals for action

43. The Forum may wish to:

(a) Recommend that the Commission on Sustainable Development continue advancing the holistic consideration of all relevant forest-related issues, encompassing all

types of forests, so as to facilitate concerted and joint action by organizations with forest-related capabilities;

(b) Request the Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests to initiate, in consultation with relevant secretariats of conventions and international and regional organizations, a collective action programme to support national forest programmes in developing countries, including countries with low forest cover, with a focus on institutional capacities, legislative and regulatory safeguards, and development of human resources needed to facilitate effective compliance and the implementation of global and regional forest-related policies and instruments;

(c) Urge countries to develop appropriate compliance mechanisms and procedures, on a mutually agreed basis, for the fulfilment of all obligations relevant to forest-related elements under existing instruments. Developing countries should be assisted to develop these tools according to country-specific conditions;

(d) Invite countries to establish a mechanism to ensure a substantial increase in resources for operational activities allocated towards the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests on a predictable, sustained and secure basis.

Annex

List of forest-related international and regional organizations and instruments

Legally binding instruments

Global

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat

Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Convention on Biological Diversity

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

International Tropical Timber Agreement

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Regional

Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution

Treaty for Amazon Cooperation

Central American Convention on Forests

Lome IV Convention

Alpine Convention

North American Free Trade Agreement

Treaty Establishing the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

International and regional organizations

Treaty-based organizations

African Timber Organization

European Union

International Monetary Fund

International Tropical Timber Organization

Organization of American States

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

World Trade Organization

Regional development banks

African Development Bank

Asian Development Bank

Inter-American Development Bank

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

United Nations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

World Bank

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

World Food Programme

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

United Nations University

World Intellectual Property Organization

World Meteorological Organization

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Regional commissions

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic Commission for Europe

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Other organizations and forums

International Institute for Environment and Development

International Wood Products Association

World Conservation Monitoring Centre

World Resources Institute

World Wide Fund for Nature International and associated non-governmental organizations

World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Central American Council of Forests and Protected Areas

Asia Forest Network

European Forest Institute

Centre for International Forestry Research

International Center for Research in Agroforestry

International Boreal Forest Research Association

International Union for the Conservation of Nature

Global Environment Facility

International Union of Forestry Research Organization